

I first met Shahima Rehman spring 2011 during one of her visits to North America. She spent a few days in Texas as she sought to convince us that we should assist Fatima Memorial with the establishment of a public health school in Lahore Pakistan. Her presentation about Fatima Memorial was compelling and ultimately she convinced two of us to come visit during somewhat risky times for Americans visiting Pakistan.

Needless-to-say, the visit proved to be a pretty compelling case for collaboration. The work Fatima Memorial has accomplished under her leadership is amazing. The woman is revered from patients to staff to faculty. Perhaps the greatest threat to her continued success is the fact that every time she moves about the community, she sees another opportunity to intervene and make a difference. She is a visionary public health leader masquerading as a foundation president. While I am now sold on this collaboration plan and am confident we can make a meaningful contribution to this effort to build a public health school at FMS, I am convinced she could pull it off alone as well.

I look forward to learning a great deal about global health from this amazing woman. Tufts should be extremely proud to include her among it's alumni.

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